

THE TRUE STORY OF PASO REAL.

A Drawn Battle Between the Government and Insurgent Forces.

But Luque Claims a Glorious Victory and the San Fernando Cross.

Cubans Either Describe It as a Massacre or Say That Maceo Routed His Opponents.

VARONA FOOLED A SPANISH OFFICER.

The Dashing Rebel Called Out to a Fleeing Population That They Were Safe in the Hands of the Spaniards and Managed to Escape.

By Charles Nicholson.

(Sent by way of Key West to escape censorship at Havana.)

Havana, Feb. 8.—Maximo Gomez's plans are changed. He is not going back to the mountain fastnesses yet awhile. As he grimly said after the battle of Artemisa: "The climate of Havana province agrees with me and it is improving to live near a big city."

Gomez sent east for five thousand reinforcements. They are coming with the ease that distinguishes rebel marches through Cuba. So far they have not encountered the slightest difficulty in their advance and have already crossed the "dead line" that has been established. This much is certain, and now with Gomez the war is going to be right around Havana for the time.

The insurgents say the Government troops cannot drive them away from this vicinity as long as they want to stay here, and it looks like it.

With a dozen Generals, including the Governor-General, after them, Gomez and Maceo have roamed about the same section for a month. With the coming of 20,000 fresh troops from Spain, something serious ought to happen.

General Pando has been in charge of the war in the far east, and is back in Havana,

was useless, however, as Luque drove Miro back. They say it was a very pretty fight for a while. General Luque was shot through the leg as he entered a dry river bed, and then Miro's eastern horsemen charged. They went at it, machete to machete in the creek, but Miro was forced back into the town.

Luque planted his cannon right on the main street and won the first round. The loss so far was two rebels killed, four Spanish soldiers wounded and ten or twelve of the peaceful inhabitants of Paso Real dead. Then Luque sent his cavalry out of the town and attacked Maceo's main body. Luque's cavalry had, in the meantime, come back in a hurry with Commander Mijares wounded. Luque's infantry tried it. Maceo charged in regular squadrons, coming right up to the bayonets of the Spanish squares. The rebel chief Castillo Payosa, with twenty bullets through him, fell. His brother officer, Alfredo Castillano, was also killed.

At the same time as the charge the rest of Maceo's men, from the shelter of a palm forest, were firing on the Spaniards. It was then that most of the killing was done. Luque's men fired until dark, and then retired to the town.

The next day General Luque returned to Pinar del Rio, while Maceo wandered on. Maceo's losses were about fifty, two-fifths of whom are dead. Luque's loss was seventeen dead and twenty-nine wounded, including the General.

This was more like fighting than any.

TURKISH TROOPS DYNAMITED BY REBELS

Ten Thousand Said to Be the Number Slaughtered at Zeitoun.

The Wholesale Destruction Ascribed to "Fire Bursting Out from the Air."

Bullets Finished the Work That Was Begun by the Well-Timed Explosion of Mines and Bombs.

UTTER ROUT OF THE SULTAN'S ARMY.

The Besieged City Is in No Danger of Another Attack Until After March, On Account of the Condition of the Roads at This Time.

Constantinople, Feb. 9.—The satisfactory reports spread abroad by the Turkish Government regarding the attack on Zeitoun do not coincide with the facts, for the attack has not been a success. The Zeitounis, fighting against superior numbers, were favored by their impregnable position and by the winter season. The Turks, however, were able to close in to the Hot Springs, five miles from Zeitoun on the

a rushing, unfordable torrent, and is crossed by a stone bridge.

BRIDGE AND MEN BLOWN UP.

The Zeitounis made a partial stand at the bridge and slowly withdrew up the steep road, followed by almost the entire Turkish army. When most of the Turkish army had crossed the bridge was suddenly blown up, and the Zeitounis from the precipitous banks of the stream rained down bullets and rocks. They had prepared small mines of dynamite down in the valley and it is said that they also had dynamite bombs. The Turkish account is: "Fire burst out from the air or from the ground and destroyed the army."

The defeat of the army was complete. Since they had not got into Zeitoun there was no place where they could be sheltered; they were obliged to abandon all they had captured and retreat to Marash. The only report from Marash which estimates the killed gives the Turkish losses as 10,000, although this number does not seem possible. What was left of the army came back into Marash over the direct Zeitoun road. The wounded were put into some of the Christian churches.

The Zeitounis are said to have enough provisions to last until July. Whatever may be the result of the mediation, no further attack can be made until after March. Whether the detachment of the Turkish army which had reached Fumuz on the west has tried to hold its position has not been learned. Regarding the numerical strength of the Zeitounis, nothing can be said with certainty. At the start their success in taking four or five hundred prisoners gave an idea of great strength. If, however, they were able to cut off the water supply, this fact would be of less significance, and in the battle of Hot Springs the rebel leaders had every advantage of position and science. There is no doubt that there are wise heads in command at Zeitoun.

SLAUGHTER OF THE MALES.

The condition of Tamzara, near Sharki Kara, Hesar (province of Silvas), is wretched. When the attack was made on the village the Kurds and Circassians carried off all the cattle. Returning they made the men and women stand together, and then, in the presence of the women, the men were killed. Out of 250 houses all but ten of the males above five years of age were killed on that awful day. Then the houses were stripped of all that was in them. The women were stripped of their clothing when it was worth carrying off. There are only about 300 women and children left at Tamzara.

"You cannot imagine the terrible condition of these people," says a correspondent. "I have seen young women, who were delicately brought up, dressed in two sacks, one with holes cut in the corners for the legs and the other with holes for the head and arms. They were even happy to have so much in the way of clothing. They go to the city for bread. On the way they are often taken possession of by some passing Turk. And the worst of everything is that the soldiers and zabtichs, whenever they choose, again and again force their way into the houses in Tamzara, where there are no men to beat them off, and do what they like. The Government has turned back these women every time they have tried to escape to other places."

ORTHODOXYSNUBS GENIUS
Bavarians Oppose the Erection of a Statue of Von Scheffel Near a Church Dedicated to St. Vitus.

By Henry W. Fischer.
Berlin, Feb. 9.—There is much speculation going on here just now as to what will be the outcome of the contemplated erection of a monument to the memory of Joseph Victor von Scheffel, the poet, the author of "The Trumpeter of Saeckingen" and "Ekkie hand."

Von Scheffel immortalized the land of the Franks, from Hamburg to Grauboden, by a popular ditty, the refrain of which begins with an address to St. Vitus of St. Vitus. But it now appears that there is violent opposition to this on the part of the clergy, because a chapel has been built to St. Vitus on the same hill. It is argued that whatever temporal lustre Von Scheffel may have given his country, his songs were, after all, not of a sacred character, and it would consequently seem like a profanation to rear his monument close to a chapel.

The similarity of the opposition in this case to that of the clergy in reference to the Helne monument at Dusseldorf and Mayence lends additional interest to the affair.

DRIVEN TO DEATH BY SLIGHT.

A Young Wife of Williamsburg Swallows a Dose of Creosote.

Mrs. Annie Hay, twenty-five years old, of No. 84 Marion street, Williamsburg, was removed in a critical condition yesterday afternoon to St. John's Hospital, suffering from creosote poisoning.

Mrs. Hay lived with her husband, Frank, at the above mentioned address. Frank, attired in his best Sunday clothes, was about to go out, as he said, "for a walk."

He refused to take his wife with him, whereupon a quarrel arose. Mrs. Hay rushed to a closet, and seizing a bottle of creosote, drained it of its contents. At the hospital it was said that Mrs. Hay would probably die.

LA GASCOGNE IN PORT.

Ten Hours Late from Havre—Cunarder Aurania Expected To-day.

The French liner La Gascoigne reached Quarantine at 10 o'clock last night, at least ten hours late from Havre. No report had been received from the vessel at midnight, but it is considered almost certain that she was swept by the hurricane of last Thursday.

The Cunarder Aurania, from Liverpool and Queenstown, also due yesterday, had not been sighted at 11 p. m., but she is expected to make port to-day.

Venezuela's Big Grant.

By Anthony Drake.

Caracas, Venezuela, Feb. 9.—The Venezuelan Government has granted a big concession of the richest section of Guiana, on the Upper Orinoco, to a syndicate of capitalists.

The concession is in a portion of the country which is not claimed by Great Britain.

It is believed that it will be colonized by United States citizens, who are likely to develop its great natural resources.

SEXTON ELOQUENT, BUT VERY WEAK.

P. J. O'Kelly's Opinion of the New Leader of the Anti-Parnellites.

He Was the Guiding Spirit in the Cabal Against the Great Irish Leader.

British Government in the Palm of Its Hand, but Failed to Get Home Rule.

TAIL OF RADICAL, LIBERAL BODIES.

Though Ablest Among the Whigs, Justin McCarthy's Successor is Mostly Responsible for Failure to Obtain Redress from Parliament.

By Julian Ralph.

London, Feb. 9.—The election by unanimous vote of William Sexton in Dublin on Saturday may decide the friends of Ireland in America into taking too seriously the letter of T. P. O'Connor to the New York Journal, in which he predicted a new birth of harmony in the Irish parliamentary contingent.

The fact is, O'Connor speaks only for the Nationalist, or anti-Parnellite.

The Journal has asked for the best expression of the minority and has been requested to wait until to-day, until the election of Sexton had been accomplished and the Parnellite members had had time to digest the probable effects of this important incident in Irish history.

The Journal is able to give the well-considered opinion of the whole Parnellite following, as expressed by P. J. O'Kelly, of the Dublin Independent, to-day, who thus cables to you:

Hearst, Journal, New York.
The election of Sexton to the leadership of the McCarthyite party will make no difference in the situation in Ireland.

Sexton is one of the men principally responsible for the split in the Irish party and the overthrow of Parnell's leadership. He was the man who moved the re-election of Parnell as chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party, with the full knowledge of the threats and hostile criticisms of the English press; with a full knowledge that the re-election of Parnell would bring the Irish National party into conflict with the English Liberal party. Yet within a few hours of making this speech Sexton was one of the men who formed the cabal which led to the deposition of Parnell from the leadership.

During the last five years Sexton has been the real guiding spirit of the McCarthyite party. It is known that he is eloquent, but the failure of the McCarthy party, under his direct leadership, to effect any good for Ireland, or to use the enormous power they possessed, shows that Sexton is quite incapable of taking the place vacated by the death of Parnell.

It must be remembered that during the last three years of the Liberal Government the parts of the Irish party which followed the leadership of McCarthy exercised absolute power of life and death over the British Government. The Liberals held power by their support and permission. Without the support of the McCarthyite party the Liberal Government of Gladstone and Rosebery could not have existed a single day, for McCarthy held them, as he boasted, in the hollow of his hand, and at any moment could have hurled them from power. Yet it is remarkable that in the three years during which the Irish were omnipotent in the House of Commons were the three years in this century in which the least has been accomplished for the benefit of the Irish people.

Sexton and his friends abandoned the policy of Parnell in Parliament, although they kept up in the country a hypocritical pretence of following upon the lines of action of the great Irish political leader. But in Parliament it is known to all men that they were merely obedient servants of the Liberal Government. Whatever they were ordered to do or not to do they would obey.

The result of this situation, which was maintained by lying and by fraud for five years, was the defeat of Home Rule and the abandonment by the Liberal Government of every measure calculated to improve the position of the Irish people, and the utilization of the McCarthyite party as a mere tail of a Radical and Liberal bodies of England for carrying out reforms of benefit only to the English people.

Sexton and his friends justified this policy on the ground that if they supported the English in the achievement of desirable reforms, the English electorate would support claims of Irish Home Rule at the polls.

The result of the last election proves conclusively that Sexton and his friends, in abandoning the policy of Parnell, handed themselves over to the service of the English, who have not had the gratitude to repay them for their indispensable aid.

Sexton, because he is perhaps the

ablest man among the Whigs, is the man who is most responsible for the failure of the representation of Ireland to secure any important reform in their country.

He is an eloquent man; but he is also a remarkably weak man.

Under him no unity of the Irish people can ever be effected.

P. J. O'KELLY.

A QUEEN'S STRANGE CRAZE

Carmen Sylva Forms Another Romantic Attachment for an Actress.

By Henry W. Fischer.

Berlin, Feb. 9.—The latest sensational piece of gossip is that Queen Elizabeth of Roumania, who is known to poetic fame as "Carmen Sylva," has again formed a mysterious attachment similar to the one which threatened, several years ago, to disrupt the domestic peace of the royal household.

It will be remembered that at that time the Queen's infatuation for one of her court ladies, Helen Varesco, impelled her to seek to force the King's nephew, the heir-presumptive, into a marriage with the lady.

The result was a separation between the royal couple, and for a while the King seriously contemplated procuring a divorce. In time, however, the breach was healed. Now Carmen Sylva is entirely wrapped up in admiration of an actress, Agathe Barsescu, who entered public life early in the 80s, in Berlin, under L'Arronge. She is a tragedienne.

The Barsescu was born in Roumania, and was at one time engaged to be married to Joseph Kaluz, the celebrated actor. After the engagement was broken off, she went to Vienna and Buda-Pesth, where she met with great success.

Queen Elizabeth has been showering gifts upon the actress and is almost all the time in her company.

It is said that the King is highly incensed, and that it is not unlikely that unless the Queen behaves with more discretion a new separation and banishment of the Queen may follow.

A DANGER TO OUR TRADE.

The Agrarian Element in the Storting Want to Impose Heavy Duties on Our Grain and Cattle.

By Henry W. Fischer.

Berlin, Feb. 9.—Incalculable danger to the export trade of the United States is threatened by Norway.

The agrarian element of the Storting has combined in an effort to impose heavy duties upon foreign grain and cattle.

It is said that the agrarians constitute the majority in the Storting, and that the contemplated law will unquestionably go into effect.

STRUCK THE CONDUCTOR.

Coroner Fitzpatrick's Son Assaulted Buckley Because He Wouldn't Stop a Car—Was Once a Policeman.

A man who gave his name as Bernard Blair, of No. 204 Madison street, was arrested last night for assaulting Patrick J. Buckley, a conductor on the Broadway cable line. Blair ran after a car at Bleecker street, and when he jumped on the car assaulted Buckley for not stopping the car, cutting his nose and lip.

Policeman Walsh, of the Mulberry Street Station, arrested Blair and took him to the station house, where he was recognized as the son of Coroner Fitzpatrick.

Fifteen years ago, while on the police force, he shot Policeman Norton, in a fight over a woman in an alleyway on Stanton street, near the Bowers, for which he served four years in the State prison.

He will be arraigned in Centre Street Court to-day.

HONESTLY FOR MORTON.

So Says Platt in Reference to the Report That He Will Drop the Governor.

J. Sloan Fassett was among the visitors to the city yesterday. He did not call upon Mr. Platt, but spent the evening with Colonel James S. Clarkson. Mr. Fassett wanted to be a delegate to the National Convention, but was defeated. He expressed himself as being for Morton. Close friends of Mr. Fassett say he is through fighting Platt and will in the future be found under the machine banner.

There was considerable talk among the politicians over the report that Platt intended to drop Morton after the third ballot. Mr. Platt would not be interviewed upon the subject except to say he was for Morton sincerely and honestly. Men who are well acquainted with the inner workings of the machine are of the opinion that Platt, Quay and Clarkson have formed a defensive alliance, but they do not believe that a candidate has been decided upon.

It was learned last night that it is the purpose of the machine to pass the Raines Excise bill at Albany this week. It will be slightly amended, but there will be no change in the fees and the division of the excise. An attempt will also be made to force the Greater New York resolution through before the adjournment next Friday.

The Millikoll Committee of Twenty-five will hold a meeting to-night at the Windsor Hotel and make arrangements for their bolt from the organization. They are through with the machine and will start another organization in this county. Speaking of this last night, Cornelius N. Blais, one of the leaders of the movement, said: "No definite action has been decided upon and there will be nothing done until after the meeting of the Committee of Twenty-five. I think that decent Republicans will resent the decision of the State Committee in referring the protest back to Lauterbach and the County Committee, and I believe that the committee will decide to submit their case to that higher court, the people."

Lost \$200 and Got Little Experience.
Alloys Nitsche, of Newark, N. J., answered an advertisement in a New York paper on Friday for a man with capital to back a theatrical enterprise, representing it as a sure winner. The man gave his name as C. F. Foster, Park Avenue, Newark. Nitsche met Foster, and the latter boomed his enterprise so eloquently that Nitsche at once gave him \$200. They started for New York Saturday, but on the way Foster gave Nitsche the slip.

Chorus Girls Attached the Scenery.
May O'Day and Maudie Smith, chorus girls, connected with the Black Crook company, caused Manager John H. Springer, of the company, a good deal of trouble in Jersey City Saturday night and yesterday morning. They secured attachments against the scenery, alleging that their salaries had not been paid. They got their money yesterday.

UNCLE SAM READY FOR ANY EMERGENCY.

Neither the "Flying" Nor Other Squadron Can Surprise Us Now.

The Administration Has Kept a Close Watch on England's Movements.

There Is More Than a Suspicion That Salisbury Is Playing a Crafty Game.

THE INCIDENT BY NO MEANS CLOSED.

Only Justification or Abandonment of the British Claims in Venezuela Can Avert the Renewal of the Contention. Neither Is Expected.

By Julius Chambers.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Although the impression prevails in certain quarters that the Venezuelan boundary question is a closed incident, the President does not entertain this opinion. Neither do the men who hold the closest official relations with the President. The aim that followed the Venezuelan message was an sudden storm of excitement. It produced the conciliatory tone of the English press and the friendly expressions of prominent members of the British Government have lulled the American people into a state of serene quiet with regard to the dispute.

In administration circles the same confidence in the sincerity of the peaceful professions of the English is not felt. There is more than a suspicion that England is playing a crafty game, for the express purpose of creating the belief that she is willing to accept some amicable adjustment of the boundary contention. The Transvaal question intruded itself just as the British lion was preparing to roar at the United States. When Germany prodded the animal with the Emperor's letter to President Krueger, of the Transvaal, the roar of defiance was turned in that direction and the English suddenly discovered a wonderful affection for their American cousins.

CLOSE WATCH ON ENGLAND.

The bustling preparations for war, that had been commenced at the first sound of danger, were continued, but the British Government declared that no threat was implied against their beloved kin on this side the water. The rumor that the "flying squadron" was destined for American waters was promptly denied, but the secret agents of the United States continue to send notes of warning to this Government. The English fortress of St. Lucia, situated within easy reach of the Venezuelan coast, has been amply supplied with everything that would be required in the event of war with the United States over the boundary dispute. The land contemplates a friendly settlement of the question, why should she put herself in condition to promptly employ force? That is one question that the President and the Secretary of State have not been able to solve upon any basis of a friendly and pacific purpose on the part of England.

The apprehensions of the Administration in this respect have been kept secret, because the President earnestly desires to afford England every possible encouragement to bring about a fair and just settlement of the question. The English officials, confident their peaceful proposals to unofficial talks. They carefully refrain from putting any of them in a shape that would bind their future actions. They are anxious to prevent any excitement on the subject among their people or the American people, pending the solution of the Transvaal difficulties.

DISTURBANCE OF SALISBURY.

The request that the English Government shall recognize the Commission now sitting in this country on the boundary question, by submitting evidence of English claims, or by sending counsel to represent those claims, has no doubt been laid before Lord Salisbury and his colleagues. The Administration is prepared to see Salisbury adopt a policy of procrastination with regard to his response. He will not venture upon any act to raise the question of the question, why should she put herself in condition to promptly employ force? That is one question that the President and the Secretary of State have not been able to solve upon any basis of a friendly and pacific purpose on the part of England.

EFFECT ON THE CAMPAIGN.

In the opinion of the Commissioners, their report will not reach Congress until some time in May. The preliminary canvass for the Presidential nominations will then be in an excited state of progress. A message from the President asserting that the findings of the Commission had demonstrated the unfairness of the English claims would throw that question right into the Presidential fight. There is not the least doubt about the President sustaining the finding of the Commission. He has every confidence in the Commissioners and their purpose to reach a just conclusion.

There is only one method by which a renewal of the contention with England can be averted, and that is by that Government either justifying its claims to the Commission or abandoning them. In official circles it is not believed that England will do either. If England is not ready to support its claims to Venezuelan territory by the time the Commission's report goes to Congress, the Salisbury Government will again resort to the policy of temporizing. An official who is very close to the President asserts that England must present proposals for adjusting the question before the completion of the work of the Commission, if they are to receive consideration by this Government.

Don't

Allow your blood to get impure and your system run down, because in such a condition you will be in danger of pneumonia, fevers and grip. Build up with

Head's Sarsaparilla.

The One True Blood-Purifier. All druggists, \$1. Ho-J's Pills, cure liver ills; easy to take, only 10 cents.



GENERAL LUQUE SURROUNDED BY HIS STAFF.

and when General Weyler comes he will take charge of Pinar del Rio, to see if he can't do something.

SPANISH IMAGINATION.

I hate to spoil a good story, but I am going to tell the truth about the battle of Paso Real, for which General Luque has applied for the Cross of San Fernando, which carries with it a pension of \$5,000 a year.

Paso Real has been given out officially as a great victory, the rebel losses being placed at 67 killed, with anywhere from 200 to 800 wounded. The Cubans, on their part, have told two stories. One is that General Luque found Maceo's hospital and slaughtered such of the wounded as a small, heroic guard could not get away. The other is that Maceo utterly routed Luque's forces.

The fact is the battle was neither a glorious victory for Luque, nor was it a massacre, nor was it the rout of insurgent imagination; but a plain, ordinary Cuban skirmish, such as we have been accustomed to. The losses were severer than usual, but trifling in comparison with the numbers engaged. Out of the 6,000 men engaged the combined losses were less than 100 killed and wounded, about evenly divided between Spaniards and Cubans, and at the end both armies retired. The battle was absolutely drawn.

General Luque is entitled to the credit of having made the attack and of getting a drawn battle with a force inferior in numbers.

HOW IT WAS FOUGHT.

This is a true description of the battle: At 1 o'clock in the afternoon General Luque, with about 2,000 men, reached Paso Real, a small town eight miles west of Havana. Maceo couldn't believe it was a Spanish column approaching, because he knew Luque ought to be leagues behind him, as he had had word of him at Pinar del Rio the evening before. But Luque had marched all night. However, Maceo's outposts fired on him, and presently Maceo sent out Brigadier Miro to stop him. Miro went outside the town so that peaceful citizens would not suffer. The precaution

thing we have had for a long time. Luque has already been promoted to Division General and will probably get the cross.

VARONA'S CLEVER TRICK.

All Pinar del Rio is laughing at how Colonel Varona, the dashing rebel, fooled General Luque's forces at San Juan y Martinez. Varona was at breakfast in a house when Luque suddenly arrived. The town people started to run and Varona came out to see what was the matter. He ran square into a Spanish officer. Varona turned and yelled to the fleeing population: "Don't run; it's the Spanish troops, not the insurgents; now, thank God, we're safe!"

Naturally the Spaniard took Varona for a townsman and swept by in pursuit of his small guard. Then Varona slipped behind the house, got on his horse and escaped, which shows the advantage of absence of uniform and presence of mind.

MACEO ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT.

Maceo has been gravely establishing a government through Pinar del Rio. When he reaches a town he at once convenes the City Council and directs them to appoint a new police force, with new officers, or he confirms the incumbents under the new flag. He did this at San Juan, Guanabacoa, Baya and many other places. He has been received with great enthusiasm. A great many recruits have joined him. A new column of three thousand insurgents has been formed.

Maceo has confirmed the appointment of Letrado Calmes to a command. Dr. Gomez Rubio, Manuel Lazo, a big planter, and Lieutenant Leopoldo Perez, formerly of the Spanish volunteers, are among his officers. That Zarona affair of ten days ago, reported as a Government victory, has never been quite straightened out. The truth appears to be that after ineffective skirmishing, where the losses were probably twenty on a side, Luque and Maceo found themselves on the same plantation. Luque declined Maceo's offer of battle, being outnumbered, and the next day returned to Pinar del Rio, whence the Government victory was reported.

Roberto Bermudez, a rebel chief, who was officially announced as dead by the Spaniards, is back in the saddle again. He got a bullet through the body, but Maceo's surgeons cured him.

east, and at least to Fumuz, eight miles from Zeitoun on the west, over roads which are supposed to be impassable during the winter, which seems to show that the Zeitounis were not strong enough to defend the approaches.

Zeitoun lies in a deep valley, and there are four roads that lead into it. The plan of attack was to approach with the army in three divisions, closing in from Marash, Geben and Guwam. Of these three roads the mountain road from Marash would be the easiest to defend, because, besides the bridge at the Djhan, there is a high, narrow gorge at the point where the city is first visible. The road from Guwam is also easily defended, and the three thousand men concentrated at Guwam seem to have taken little part in the attack.

THE MAIN ARMY NONPLUSSED.

The Geben division of 5,000 men, weakened by sickness, moved forward slowly and the main advance was made from Marash over the most difficult road of all. It is possible that, as once reported, the bridge across the Djhan had been destroyed and the main army of about 10,000 men could not take the winter road. The Zeitounis at the very commencement had succeeded, by cutting off the water supply and after an attack of sixty hours, in capturing the barracks of the city, and the Turkish reports say that the Zeitounis held 503 prisoners.

For a long time directly contradictory reports of continual engagements kept coming in. The attacking army continually advanced and one detachment succeeded in getting over on to the road from Alibosian, thus closing Zeitoun on every side. Although the Turks claim to have captured the barracks commanding Zeitoun, the fact that the battle took place at Hot Springs makes it look as though only the heights had been taken and not the barracks, which are but a quarter of a mile from Zeitoun. The tributary of the Djhan, which passes through Hot Springs from Zeitoun, is a dry bed in summer, but at this season of the year is